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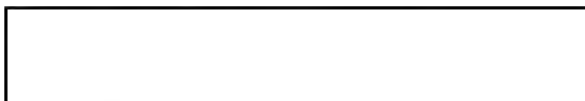


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PORTUGAL: Portuguese Socialist leader Mario Soares, in a conversation with US Ambassador Hillenbrand in Bonn on May 3, said that the interim civilian government in Lisbon will include Communists as well as Socialists. The government will be appointed by the junta within the next two weeks and remain in office until next year's elections.

One reason, according to Soares, for the inclusion of Communists in the government was that, otherwise, the Communists would press for early elections. In addition, the new leaders had decided that it would be better to let the Communists share the successes and failures of the government than to leave them on the outside to criticize. Soares emphasized that the Communists would not get such sensitive portfolios as prime minister, foreign affairs, defense, or interior. The Socialist leader implied that he would become prime minister.

Soares did not indicate whether the Communists were aware of these plans. A member of the Portuguese Communist Party Central Committee, however, told reporters yesterday that the party wants several cabinet posts and would not be satisfied with token representation in the new government.

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When asked to what extent he and Spinoza were in accord, Soares replied that their views are "basically identical." The only difference, he said, is that the Socialists are urging a more rapid pace toward decolonization in Portugal's African territories.

Meanwhile, a recent press interview with young officers who planned and organized the coup suggests that preparations for the takeover had been in progress for about a year. According to this account,

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the essentials of the plan were formulated by last September. The abortive uprising in March was allegedly staged to test public opinion, and secret rehearsals began in early April. Spinola and other sympathetic generals were contacted on April 22--three days before the coup took place.

The young officers implied in the interview that they have the power to dominate the junta. Because of General Spinola's popularity and his record as a strong leader, however, it is unlikely that he will become a figurehead.

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ISRAEL-SYRIA: Fighting on the Israeli-Syrian front slackened over the weekend, possibly reflecting some progress in Secretary Kissinger's current effort to facilitate a troop disengagement agreement on the Golan Heights.

Press reports that Syria on Saturday had ordered its guns silenced along the front except in the Mount Hermon region have not been borne out. Although fighting was heaviest in the Mount Hermon area, Syrian and Israeli fire was also noted in other sectors of the front as well.

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*FRANCE: Francois Mitterrand and Valery Giscard d'Estaing yesterday easily won the right to face each other on May 19 in a run-off for the French presidency.

The outcome of the second round may be close. The last polls indicated for the first time that Mitterrand might defeat Giscard in the second round, but the balance could easily shift back in Giscard's favor in the next two weeks. In the past, a significant percentage of the electorate has registered its dissatisfaction with government policies in its first-round votes. In the second round, however, it has voted for Gaullist stability, which has been most beneficial to the voters' pocketbooks.

With about 80 percent of the votes counted, it appears that Mitterrand will take about 43 percent and Giscard around 33 percent of the vote. Giscard's showing at the polls was two percentage points better than the last opinion polls had predicted; Mitterrand's was two points lower. Despite a record turnout, the Socialist seems to have failed to improve on the proportion of first-round votes usually won by the left.

Gaullist Jacques Chaban-Delmas won only 15 percent and conceded early last evening. Chaban reiterated his opposition to Mitterrand, but did not endorse Giscard. Immediately after his statement, Gaullist Prime Minister Messmer called on party members to campaign for Giscard, and the party secretary general later said the Gaullists would unite behind Giscard. The head of the governing coalition's minor centrist party, which had backed Chaban, also quickly endorsed Giscard.

The French electorate clearly wants economic and social changes, and both candidates are promising reform. The middle-of-the-road voters will decide the race. They have not yet indicated clearly if they prefer Giscard's moderate proposals or if they will back Mitterrand despite his link with the Communists.

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Final results in the second round may not be known immediately; 2.6 percent of the vote comes from overseas voters and is not available for several days.

There will probably again be a high voter turnout in the second round. In 1965, when the electorate chose between De Gaulle and Mitterrand, the votes in the second round equaled those in the first. In 1969, however, when Pompidou faced centrist Alain Poher, 12 percent of the voters chose not to go to the polls for a second time.

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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